

2012 Legislative Report on Remedial Education: Executive Summary

Innovation through data

Colorado leads the nation in its data-sharing partnership between K-12 and higher education, allowing for continuous improvements in data quality. This report uses a new method of calculating remediation rates that provides a more complete picture of the remedial needs of the Colorado high school Class of 2011. Changes include 1) focusing on a single high school graduating class and 2) incorporating both students assessed as needing remediation *and* those enrolled in remedial classes. Three years of remedial rates using the new method are included for context; rates provided in prior reports and calculated under the previous method are not comparable. Keep in mind: *Increased remedial rates are not a reflection of a higher number of students needing remediation but are an example of improved data quality and measurement.*

College and the Class of 2011:

- 57% of the 2011 high school graduating class enrolled in a postsecondary institution in Colorado or another state in the fall immediately after graduation.
- Of the 2011 graduates enrolling in college, 79% elected to attend a Colorado college or university while 21% left the state to attend a postsecondary institution.
- 71% of the 2011 graduates attending college enrolled in a four-year institution, in or out of state, while 29% enrolled at a two-year college.

Overall remedial needs:

- 40% of 2011 high school graduates enrolling in a Colorado college or university needed remediation in at least one subject, a slight decrease from the previous year of 41%. (Both rates calculated with the new method.)
- 66% of students enrolled in a community college and 24% of students at a four-year institution needed remediation.
- Most students required remediation in mathematics (51%), followed by writing (31%) and then reading (18%); about 1 in 3 students need math remediation at the lowest level.
- Gaps: By gender, females were more likely to be assigned to remediation than males. By ethnicity, black students had the highest remediation rates, followed by Hispanic students.

Retention of remedial students:

- 59% of all remedial courses were completed successfully.
- For the first time since annual reporting began in 2001, there was no difference in the first-year retention rates (48%) of remedial and non-remedial students at community colleges.
- At the four-year level, the retention rate for students not assigned to remediation was 79% compared to 60% for those needing remediation.

Costs associated with remediation:

- The estimated total cost associated with remedial courses was approximately \$58 million in 2011-12, with the largest portion of that paid in student tuition of approximately \$39 million. The state share was approximately \$19 million.